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George W. Skiff,

EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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POETRY.

FOR THE DEMOCRAT.

MR. EDITOR.—The following lines were written after reading an extract from Parham's Travels in Oregon. They may be considered for the most part a sort of paraphrase of the description of an Indian who was, to use his own words, "a splendid gentleman, a finished scholar, a critic on English and Roman literature," and had left civilized life to become a Trapper on the Rocky Mountains. If you see fit to give them a corner in your paper, they are at your service.

THE AMERICAN INDIAN.

How the spirit mounts to the sublime,
In contemplation of this Indian wild.
Not "the poor Indian with untutored mind,"
But rich in science, in learning's gifts,
In the free gifts of nature richer still.
When taken from his native wilds, and taught
The manner, and the modes of other men,
To taste their luxuries, to feel their chains.
He loved the sciences; but what the use
Of all their truths to him?

Why should he wish
To measure mountains that his strength could scale?
Did legends of his tribe or speak to him
Of angles, and of quadrants? No, they spoke
Of spirits in each vale, each wood, and stream;
Warriors who could not rest if unrevenged,
Of sons who felt attempting to appease
The manes of murdered Sires, of loving maids
Who fell beside the bier of their beloved,
Or leaped from cliffs, like Sappho, to blot out
Hopeless, unholy love 'neath the dark wave.

He had been taught
The most sublime of all the sciences,
Yet what to him its use? Why should he wish
To calculate Eclipses, to mark out
The paths of brilliant Comets, or to make
Fruit calculations on their substances?
He always knew such things to be the work
Of the Great Spirit; he can always look
Up to the cause of Nature through His works.

What need has he
Of Lunar? For the green, embowered shores,
And headlands are well known, by which he glides
His swift canoe.

He could not bear to change
The frank, frechearted hospitality,
The generous honor of the native state,
The perfect independence of his race,
Free as the waters flowing from the hills,
For selfishness, deception, villany.

And love of wealth, and power, with the control
Of customs, laws, and forms, contrived to omit
Pictitious virtues, endless forms of vice,
That spring like worms, & weeds, where'er the plow
Has torn the soil, permitting crowds to live
Where one free spirit would have felt controlled.

What to him
The arts of Agriculture, Peace, or War?
His nature, like the pine
Which shades his wigwam, is too mighty, grand,
The fibre is too strong to form a stock
On which to graft the Violet, or the Rose
Of polished life.

It is not in the nature of his race
With mere descriptions to sit down content,
Although the style be rich, and beautiful,
Or verse harmonious in which his given.

For not the periods
Of burning eloquence, the mighty, grand,
And gorgeous imaginings can show
To Indians eye the grand realities,
The treasures of magnificence that reign
In everlasting mountains, and that live
Within the silent, deep, untrodden vales.

Their Braves delight
To watch the green life springing on the hills,
The yellow death in Autumn, tinged o'er
The forest, with its thousand glorious hues;
They sternly sing
Upon the brows of everlasting hills,
Sweeps in dread ruin o'er the boundless plain,
And roves in madness through the foaming wave.

Thus let him live, thus die, his dirge should be
The fall of rushing waters, and his tomb
The silent, vast, untrodden wilderness.

REPORTER.—When Darius offered Alexander
ten thousand talents to divide Asia equally with
him, he answered—"The earth cannot bear two
suns, nor Asia two kings."

Parmenio, a friend of Alexander's, hearing the
great offer Darius had made, said—"Were I Alexander, I would accept them." "So would I,"
replied Alexander, "were I Parmenio."

POPULAR TALES.

AHMED THE COBBLER.

CONCLUDED.

As Ahmed did not return to his house Sittara only heard of his elevation from common rumor. She saw, with despair, that her wishes for his advancement had been then accomplished, but that all her own desires had been entirely frustrated. Her husband was chief astrologer—the very position she had set her heart on: he was rich enough to enable his wife to surpass all the ladies of Isfahan in the number of her slaves, and the finery of her clothes and jewels whenever she went to the Harem; but he had married a princess; and his former wife, according to custom, was banished from his house, and condemned to live on whatever pittance she might receive from a man whose heart she had forever forfeited. These thoughts distracted her mind; her envy was excited by the account she daily heard of Ahmed's happiness, and of the beauty of the princess; and she now became anxious only for his destruction, looking on him as the sole cause of her disappointment.

An opportunity of indulging her revengeful feelings was not wanting. The king of Seestan had sent an emerald of extraordinary size and brilliancy, as a present to the king of Irak. It was carefully enclosed in a box, to which there were three keys; and one of them was in charge to each of the three confidential servants employed to convey it. When they reached Isfahan, the box was opened, but the emerald was gone. Nothing could exceed their consternation: each accused the other; as the lock was not broken it was evident one of them must be the thief. They consulted what was to be done. To conceal what had happened, was impossible: the very attempt would have brought death on them all. It was resolved, therefore, to lay the whole matter before the king, and beg that by his great wisdom he would detect the culprit, and that he would show mercy to the other two.

The king heard the story with astonishment but was unable to find any clue by which he might ascertain the truth. He summoned his vizier and all the wisest men of his court; but they were as much at a loss as their master. The report spread through the city, and Sittara thought she had now the means of working her husband's ruin. She solicited a private audience of his majesty, on the plea of having a communication of importance to make. Her request was granted. On entering the royal presence, she threw herself at his feet, exclaiming, "Pardon, O king, my having so long concealed the guilt of my husband Ahmed, whose villany is a disgrace to the royal blood. He is no astrologer, but the associate of thieves, and by that means only did he discover the royal treasure. If any doubts are entertained of my speaking the truth, let his majesty command Ahmed to recover the emerald which the servants of the king of Seestan have stolen. Surely, the man who, by his wonderful art, ascertained where all the treasure of the kingdom was concealed, will find it in easy matter to discover a single precious stone."

The king, who loved his son-in-law, was grieved by this information. Still, as the honor of his family was concerned, he resolved to put Ahmed to the test, and, if he found him an impostor, to vindicate the royal dignity by his condign punishment. He therefore sent for Ahmed, told him what had happened, and added, I give you twenty days to discover who stole the emerald. If you succeed you shall be raised to the highest honors of the state. If not, you shall suffer death for having deceived me.

Poor Ahmed quitted the presence quite disconsolate. The princess, perceiving his affliction, inquired the cause. Ahmed was by nature as sincere as he was pious and humble. He related, without concealment or disguise, every event of his past life, and concluded with these words: "You thus see, from what I have said, how incapable I am of doing what your father enjoins. My life must serve for me; and my only consolation is I shall, I trust, never see you again."

Ahmed delighted by this proof of affection, and reassured confidence of her manner, promised to be obedient, and said he would only venture to assist her exertions by his earnest prayers to that Power which had never deserted him.

The princess immediately invited the messengers from the king of Seestan to her palace. They were surprised at the invitation, and still more at their reception. "You are strangers," she said to them, and come from a powerful king. It is my wish to show you every attention. As to the lost emerald, think no more of it; it is a mere trifle. I will intercede with the king, my father to give himself no further concern on the subject, being convinced that it has been lost by one of those strange accidents for which it is unable to account."

The princess entertained the strangers for several days, during that time the emerald seemed to be forgotten. She conversed with them freely, inquiring particularly of Seestan and the countries they had seen on their travels. Flattered by her condescension, they became confident of their safety, and were delighted with their royal patroness. The princess, seeing them completely off their guard, turned the conversation one

evening on wonderful occurrences, and after each had related his story, said, "I will now recount to you some events in my life, which you will, I think, deem more extraordinary than any you have ever heard."

I am my father's only child and have therefore been a favorite from my birth. I was brought up in the belief that I could command whatever this world can afford, and was taught that unbounded liberality was the first and most princely of virtues. I early resolved to surpass every former example of generosity. I thought my power of doing good and making every body happy, was as unlimited as my wish to do so; and I could not conceive the existence of misery beyond my power to relieve. When I was eighteen I was betrothed to my cousin, a young princess, who excelled all others in beauty of person and nobleness of mind, and I fancied myself at the summit of my happiness. It chanced, however, that on the morning of my nuptials, I went to walk in a garden near the palace, where I had been accustomed to spend some hours daily from my childhood. The old gardener, with whose cheerfulness I had often been amused, met me. Seeing him look very miserable, I asked him what was the matter. He evaded a direct answer, but I insisted upon his disclosing the cause of his grief, declaring, at the same time, my determination to remove it.

"You cannot relieve me," said the old man, with a deep sigh; "it is out of your power, my beloved princess, to heal the wound of which I am dying."

My pride was roused, and I exclaimed, "I do not swear," I repeated, irritated by the position. "I will stop at nothing to make you happy, and I further swear that I will not leave this spot until you reveal the grief which preys upon you."

The old man seeing my resolution, spoke with tremulous emotion as follows:

"Princess, you know not what you have done. Behold a man who has dared, for these two years to look upon you with an eye of admiration: his love has at length reached such a pitch that without you he must be wretched forever; and unless you consent to meet him in the garden to-night, and become his bride instead of that of the prince, he must die."

Shocked by this unforeseen declaration and trembling at the thought of my oath, I tried to reason with the old gardener, and offered him all the wealth I possessed.

"I told you," he replied, "beautiful princess, that you could not make me happy. I endeavored to prevent your rash vow, and nothing but that should have drawn from me the secret of my heart. Death I know, is my fate: for I cannot live and see you the wife of another. Leave me to die. Go to your husband; go to the enjoyment of your pomp and riches; but never again pretend to the exercise of power which depends upon a thousand circumstances that no human being can regulate or control."

This speech conveyed a bitter reproach. I would have sacrificed my life a hundred times, sooner than stain my honor by marrying this man; but I had made a vow in the face of heaven, and to break it seemed sacrilege. Besides, I earnestly wished to die undecieved in my favorite notion, that I could make all who came near me happy. Under the struggle of these different feelings, I told the gardener that his desire should be granted, and that I would meet him in the garden at night before midnight. After this assurance, I went away resolved in my own mind, not to outlive the disgrace to which I had doomed myself.

I passed the day in the deepest melancholy. A little before midnight I contrived to dismiss my attendants, and arrayed in my bridal apparel, which was covered with the richest jewels, I went towards the garden. I had not proceeded many yards when I was met by a thief, who, seizing me, said, "Let me strip you madam, of those ornaments; if you make the least noise, instant death awaits you. In my state of mind, such threats frightened me a little. I wished to die, but I wished before I died to fulfil my vow. I told my story to the thief, beseeching him to let me pass, and pledging my word to return, that he might not be disappointed of his booty."

After some hesitation he allowed me to proceed. I had not got many steps, when I encountered a furious lion, which had broken loose from my father's menagerie. Knowing the merciful nature of this animal, towards the weak and defenceless, I dropped on my knees, repeated my story, and assured if he would let me fulfil my vow, I would come back to him as ready to be destroyed as he could be to make me his prey. The lion stepped aside, and I went into the garden.

I found the old gardener all impatient for my arrival. He flew to meet me, exclaiming I was an angel. I told him I was resigned to my engagement, but had not long to live. He started, and asked what I meant. I gave him an account of my meeting with the thief and the lion.

"Wretch that I am!" cried the gardener, "how much misery have I caused! But had as I am, I am not worse than a thief or a beast of prey. I was completely relieved by these words, and granted the forgiveness desired; but having determined in spite of the gardener's remonstrances to keep my promise to the thief and the lion, I refused to accept his protection. On leaving the garden the lion met me. 'Noble lion,' I said, 'I am come as I promised you.' I then related to him how the gardener had dissolved me from my vow, and expressed a hope that the king, of beast, would not be so harsh in his reproof for generosity. The lion again stepped aside, and I proceeded to the thief, who was still standing where I left him. I told him I was now in his power, but that be-

fore he stripped me, I must relate what had happened since our last meeting. Having heard me he turned away saying, 'I am not meaner than a poor gardener, nor more cruel than a hungry lion: I will not injure what they have respected.' Delighted with my escapes, I returned to my father's palace, where I was united to my cousin with whom I lived happily to his death; persuaded however, that the power of human beings to do good is very limited, and that when they leave the narrow path marked out for them by their Maker, they not only lose their object but wander far into error and guilt by attempting more than it is possible to perform.

The princess paused, and was glad to see her guests so enchanted with her story, that it banished every other thought from their minds. After a few moments she turned to one of them and asked, 'Now, which think you showed the greatest virtue in his forbearance, the gardener, the thief, or the lion?'

"The gardener, assuredly," was his answer;—"to abandon so lovely a prize when so nearly his own."

"And what is your opinion?" said the princess to his neighbor.

"I think the lion was the most generous; he must have been very hungry; and, in such a state it was a great forbearance to refrain from devouring so dainty a morsel."

"You both seem to me quite wrong," said the third impatiently; "the thief had by far the most merit. Gracious heavens! to have within his grasp such wealth, and to refrain from taking it! I could not have believed it possible, unless the princess herself had assured us of the fact."

The princess now, assuming an air of dignity, said to the first who spoke, "You, I perceive, are an admirer of the ladies; to the second, 'you are an epicure'; and, turning to the third, who was already pale with fright, 'you, my friend, have the emerald in your possession. You have betrayed yourself, and nothing but an immediate confession can save your life!'

The guilty man's countenance removed all doubt; and when the princess renewed her assurance of safety, he threw himself at her feet, acknowledged his offence, and gave her the emerald which he carried concealed about him."

The princess rose, went to her husband, and said, "There, Ahmed, what do you think of the success of my calculations?" She then related the whole circumstance, and bade him carry the jewel to her father, adding, 'I trust he will feel a greater admiration than ever for my husband the wonderful astrologer.'

Ahmed took the emerald in silent astonishment and went with it to the king of whom he requested a private audience. On its being granted, he presented the emerald. The king dazzled by its brilliant size, loaded his son-in-law with the most extravagant praises, extolling him as superior to any astrologer who had ever been seen in the world. Poor Ahmed, conscious how little he deserved such praise, threw himself at the king's feet, and begged that he might be allowed to speak the truth, as he was ready to die than continue imposing on his majesty's goodness.

"You impose on me!" said the king, "that is impossible. Did you not recover my treasure?—have you not brought me this emerald?"

"True, O king!" said Ahmed; "I have done so, but without possessing that science for which I have gained a reputation. He then told his story from first to last with perfect sincerity."

The king showed great displeasure while listening to his earlier adventures, but when Ahmed related the story of the emerald, intermingling his tale with fervent expressions of admiration for the wonderful wisdom and virtue of the princess, he heard him with delight. After he had finished, the king summoned his vizier and chief councillors, and desired that his daughter might also attend; and when they were all assembled, he spoke as follows:

"Daughter, I have learned the history of thy husband from his own lips. I have also heard much in confirmation of the belief that I have long entertained, that thy goodness and knowledge are even greater than thy beauty. They prove that thou wert born to rule—and I obey the will of Heaven, and consult the happiness of my people, when I resign my power into thy hands, being resolved to seek that repose which my declining years require. As to thy husband, thou wilt dispose of him as it pleases thee. His birth, I always knew was low; but I thought that his wisdom and learning raised him to a level with the highest rank, these, it now appears, he does not possess. If thou deemest his alliance a disgrace, divorce him. If, on the other hand, thou art willing to keep him as thy husband, do so, and give him such share as thou thinkest fit in the authority that I now commit to thee."

The princess knelt to kiss her father's hand, and answered, "May my father's life and reign be prolonged for his daughter's happiness, and for that of his subjects. I am a weak woman, altogether unequal to the task which his too fond love would impose on me. If my humble council is listened to, my father will continue to govern his people, whose gratitude and veneration will make obedience light, and rule easy. As to Ahmed, I love and esteem him; he is sensible, sincere and pious, and I deem myself fortunate in having for my husband a man so regularly favored and protected by Heaven. What, my dear father, are high rank and brilliant talents, without religion and virtue. They are as plants that bear gaily blossoms, but yield no fruit."

The king was delighted with his daughter's wisdom and affection. "Your advice," said he, "my beloved daughter, shall be followed. I will continue to govern my kingdom, while you and Ahmed shall assist me with your councils."

The good cobbler was soon afterwards nomin-

ated vizier, and the same virtue and piety which had obtained him respect in the humblest sphere of life, caused him to be loved and esteemed in the high station to which he was elevated.

The designs of Sittara were discovered, but her guilt was pardoned. She was left with a mere subsistence, a prey to disappointment—for she continued to the last to sigh for that splendor she had seen displayed by the chief astrologer's wife at the Harem—thereby affording a salutary lesson to those who admit envy into their bosoms, and endeavor to attain their ends by unreasonable and unjustifiable means.—[Sir J. Malcolm's Sketches of Persia.]

POWER OF THE PEACE PRINCIPLES.

The following beautiful story is told by a correspondent of the Boston Courier, to illustrate the unconquerable power of peace principles. The little town mentioned got along very well without a military department.

I have read of a certain regiment ordered to march into a small town (in the Tyrol, I think,) and take it. It chanced that the place was settled by a colony who believed the Gospel of Christ, and proved their faith by works. A courier from a neighboring village informed them that troops were advancing to take the town. They quietly answered, "If they will take it they must." Soldiers soon came riding in, with colors flying, and files piping shrill defiance. They looked round for an enemy, and saw the farmer at his plough, the blacksmith at his anvil, and the women at their churns and spinning wheels. Babies crowded to hear the music, and boys ran out to see the pretty trainers, with feathers and bright buttons, "the harlequins of the nineteenth century."

Of course none of these were in proper position to be shot at. "Where are your soldiers?" they asked. "We have none," was the brief reply. "But we have come to take the town." "Well friends, it lies before you." "But is there here nobody to fight?" "No; we are all Christians."

Here was an emergency altogether unprovided for by the military schools. This was a sort of resistance which no bullet could hit; a fortress perfectly bomb proof. The commander was perplexed. "If there is nobody to fight with, of course we cannot fight," said he. "It is impossible to take such a town as this."

So he ordered the horses' heads to be turned about, and they carried the human animals out of the village, as guiltless as when they entered, and perchance somewhat wiser.

COLLECTING A BILL, OR THE FIX.—A gentleman from New York, who had been in Boston for the purpose of collecting some money due him in that city, was about returning, when he found that one bill of \$100 had been overlooked. His landlord, who knew the debtor, thought it a doubtful case; but added that if it was collectable at all, a tall Yankee, then dwelling in a larger in another part of the room, would know it out the man. Calling him up, therefore, he introduced him to the creditor, who showed him the account.

"Squire," faint much use trying, I guess. I know that critter. You might as well try to squeeze ile out of Bunker Hill Monument, as to try to collect a debt of him. But any how, what'll you give, supposin' I try?"

"Well, sir, the bill is \$100. I'll give you—yes, I'll give you half, if you will collect it."

"Agreed!" replied the collector: "there's no harm in trying, any how."

Some weeks after, the creditor happened to be in Boston, and in walking up Tremont street, encountered his enterprising friend.

"Look here!" said he, "I had considerable luck with that bill of your'n. You see; I stuck to him like a dog to a root, but for the first week or to it wasn't no use; not a bit. If he was home, he was short; if he wasn't home I could get no satisfaction. By and by, says I, after going sixteen times, I'll fix ye; so I set down on the door step and sat all day and part of the evening, and I began about ten o'clock the gin in. He paid me my half and I gin up the note!"

SEVERE UPON LAWYERS

When Peter the Great was sojourning in England, for the purpose of making himself acquainted with its various crafts, in pursuance of his plan he attended at Westminster Hall, during a trial conducted by certain of the most eminent counsel of the day. At its conclusion he was asked what he thought of the system of English Jurisprudence? "When I left Russia," he replied, "there were three lawyers in St. Petersburg, as soon as I return I'll hang two of them."

SIGN OF A SINGER.

"An' Cuff, will ye be after tipping us a little bit of a sang this cowlid mornin'?" exclaimed a son of the Emerald Isle to a brother of the same race, a collaborer in the division and subdivision of wood.

"Golly mass, I can't sing!"

"Can't sing! and what is yer law back in the middle of yer fur for, like a bird's it ye can't sing!"

TEXAS—GEN. JACKSON'S LETTER.

HERMITAGE, Feb. 12, 1844.

MY DEAR SIR:—Yours of the 23d ult. has been received, and with it the Madisonian, containing Gov. Glimmer's letter on the subject of the annexation of Texas to the United States. You are not mistaken in supposing that I have formed an opinion on this interesting subject. It occupied much of my attention during my presidency, and I am sure has lost none of its importance by what has since transpired.

Soon after my election in 1829, it was made known to me by Mr. Erwin, formerly our minister at the court of Madrid, that whilst at that court he had laid the foundation of a treaty with Spain for the cession of the Floridas, and the settlement of the boundary of Louisiana, fixing the western limit of the latter at the Rio Grande, agreeably to the understanding of France—that he had written home to our government for powers to complete and sign this negotiation; but that, instead of receiving such authority, the negotiation was taken out of his hands and transferred to Washington, and a new treaty was here concluded, by which the Sabine, and not the Rio Grande, was recognised and established as the boundary of Louisiana.

Finding that these statements were true, and that our government did really give up that important territory, when it was at its option to retain it, I was filled with astonishment. The right to the territory, with obtained from France, Spain stood ready to acknowledge it to the Rio Grande, and yet the authority asked by our minister to insert the true boundary was not only withheld, but in lieu of it, limit was adopted which stripped us of the whole of the vast country lying between these two rivers.

On such a subject, I thought with the ancient Romans, that it was right never to cede any land or boundary of the republic, but always to add to it by honorable treaty, thus extending the area of freedom, and it was in accordance with this feeling that I gave our minister to Mexico instructions to enter upon a negotiation for the retrocession of Texas to the United States.

This negotiation failed, and I shall ever regret it as a misfortune to both Mexico and the United States. Mr. Glimmer's letter presents many of the considerations which, in my judgment, rendered the step necessary to the peace and harmony of the two countries; but the point in it at that time, which most strongly impelled me to the course I pursued, was the injustice done to us by the surrender of the territory, when it was obvious that I could have been retained without increasing the consideration afterwards given for the Floridas. I could not but feel that the surrender of so vast and important a territory was attributed to an erroneous estimate of the tendency of our institutions, in which there was mingled somewhat of jealousy to the rising greatness of the south and west.

But I forbear to dwell on this part of the history of this question. It is past, and cannot now be undone. We can now only look at it as one of annexation if Texas presents it to us and if she does, I do not hesitate to say that the welfare and happiness of our Union require that it should be accepted.

If, in a military point of view alone, the question be examined, it will be found to be the most important to the United States to be in possession of that territory.

Great Britain has already made treaties with Texas; and we know that far-seeing nation never omits a circumstance in her extensive intercourse with the world which can be turned to account in increasing her military resources. May she not enter into an alliance with Texas? and reserving (as she doubtless will) the north-western boundary question as a cause of war with us whenever she chooses to declare it, let us suppose that, as a ally with Texas we are to fight for her. Perceiving such a movement, so soon as 25,000 or 30,000 men to Texas, and a large number of soldiers, where her supplies and stores can be concentrated before we have even notice of her intentions; makes a landing on the Mississippi; excites the negroes to insurrection; the lower country falls, and we are to fight the whole South and west, in the mean while she is also moving an army along the upper western frontier from Canada, which, in co-operation with the army from Texas, carves ruin and havoc from the Lakes to the Gulf of Mexico.

Who can estimate the national loss we may sustain, before such a movement could be repelled with such force as we could organize on short notice?

Remember that Texas borders upon us, on our west, to 2 degrees of north latitude, and is our southern boundary to the Pacific. Remember, also, that if annexed to the United States, our western boundary would be the Rio Grande, which is of itself a fortification, on account of its extensive, barren, and uninhabitable plains. With such a barrier on our west, we are invulnerable. The whole European world could not, in combination against us, make an impression on our territory. Our position on the Pacific would rapidly increase, and soon we could arm for the protection of our eastern wharves, and in the worst event, could always be sustained by timely aids from the intermediate country.

From the Rio Grande, over land, a large army could not march, or be supplied, unless from the gulf by water, which, by vigilance, could always be intercepted; and to march an army near the gulf, they could be harassed by militia, and detained until an organized force could be raised to meet them.

But I am in danger of running into unnecessary detail, which my debility will not enable me to close. The question is full of interest, also, as it affects our domestic relations, and as it may bear upon those of Mexico to us. I will not undertake to follow it out to its consequences in those respects; though I must say that, in all its aspects, the annexation of Texas to the United States promises to enlarge the circle of free institutions, and is essential to the United States, particularly as lessening probabilities of future collision with foreign powers, and giving them greater efficiency in spreading the blessings of peace.

I return you my thanks for your kind letter on this subject, and subscribe myself, with great sincerity,
Your friend and obedient servant,
ANDREW JACKSON.
Hon A. V. Brown.
P.S. The papers furnished me by Mr. Erwin, to which I have referred in this letter, can be placed in your possession if desired.

A. J.

OXFORD DEMOCRAT.

PARIS, APRIL 9, 1844.

"The great popular party is already rallied almost en masse around the banner which is leading the party to its final triumph. The few that still lag will soon be rallied under its ample folds. On that banner is inscribed: FREE TRADE; LOW DUTIES; NO BARRIERS TO COMMERCE; SEPARATION FROM BARRIERS; ECONOMY; RE-TRADE; AND SINCERE AND SINCERE TO THE CONSTITUTION. Victory in such a cause will be great and glorious; and if its principles be faithfully and firmly adhered to after it is achieved, much will it redound to the honor of those by whom it will have been won; and long will it perpetuate the liberty and prosperity of the country."—Catholon.

TAXING MORTGAGED PROPERTY.

During the past winter this subject has been under discussion in the Massachusetts Legislature. The Committee on the Judiciary reported that it was inexpedient to legislate upon the subject. Mr. Boutwell moved to recommit the Report with instructions to report a Bill having the following provisions, viz:—

1st. That any Mortgagor might in the month of May, annually, give notice to the Assessors of any city, town, &c. of the name and residence of the Mortgagee, the amount of the debt secured by mortgage and remaining unpaid. And it shall be the duty of the Assessors to assess all taxes upon the value of the mortgage to the Mortgagee, and all taxes upon the right to redeem upon the Mortgagor.

2d. Any Mortgagor of real estate may pay the tax assessed to the Mortgagee, and the amount so paid shall be allowed by the Mortgagee in the payment of interest or debt secured by mortgage.

3d. No Mortgagee shall be taxed for money at interest which is secured by mortgage upon real estate except agreeably to the provisions of this act.

The fourth article in the Bill relates to the assignment of the mortgage, in which case the taxes are assessed to the Assignee.

Mr. Boutwell made the following remarks on his motion to recommit with instructions:—

"Mr. Boutwell said he had no desire to consume time, but he wished for an expression of opinion upon the subject. It was well known that a great part of the attention of the Legislature was directed to matters in which the farmer of the Commonwealth had little or no interest. It may be well to bestow a small portion of time to a subject in which so many of our citizens are concerned. They do not ask you to pass a bill based upon these instructions, but only to consider the evil and determine whether any remedy in your power will remove it. This is not an extraordinary demand.

The policy of the State, whether just or not, has broken down the agricultural interest. Formerly, Massachusetts, by her position, was protected from the competition of the West. By the construction of the Western Railroad, to which the State had given aid, the protection of distance and natural obstacles has been removed. The insulated position of the State was to the farmer, what duties and imports are to the manufacturer—saving him from the competition of those who can produce at less cost. You have opened the markets of the seaboard to the products of the rich and unnumbered acres of the West. Atchish all laws which prohibit or restrict the importation of foreign goods, and you will do for the manufacturer what you have already done for the farmer—only to a less degree. There is no country which has so great an advantage over our manufacturer, as the West has over our farmer. Yet the latter have not only consented to those improvements which have lessened the profits of their business, but will yet be called upon to contribute to their execution. Now, if we are to follow this policy, it has been so fatal to their interests, they ask no favor—only simple justice. It is well known that a portion of the real estate, and particularly among agriculturists is subject to a mortgage. A farmer with a farm worth \$2000, encumbered by a mortgage of \$1000, pays a tax on what he owns and on what he owes. The proposition is, that the tax upon the value of the mortgage shall be assessed to the mortgagee, and the tax upon the right in equity to redeem the estate, to the mortgagor. The gentleman from Boston (Mr. Stevenson) contended, that if we pass such a law, we violate the contract between the parties. This is an error. The mortgagee, if he be an honest man, now pays a tax upon all his money at interest. These instructions provide that he shall not pay a tax upon money at interest which is secured by a mortgage upon real estate, except agreeably to the provisions of the act. Now it can be said no difference to the mortgagee, and no difference to the mortgagor, and he has no cause to complain. Neither does it make any difference to the town in which the estate lies, for the taxes are assessed upon the

land as heretofore. The only change, and that a very beneficial one, is to the mortgagor. Instead of paying taxes upon what he does not own, he will be assessed for his real property. This is the object of our efforts. The great principle of taxation is that every one shall contribute in proportion to his wealth.

But the gentleman objects to the bill, that it will not be practicable. He denounces it as a wild theory. Now to theorize correctly is the highest object of human effort.

The gentleman will recollect that in the last session of the Legislature, when the act which requires corporations to make returns was under consideration, a colleague of his, not now a member, declared that the bill was a mere theory; that the returns would not be made, and if made, would afford no information to the assessors. What knowledge have we derived from experience upon this subject? The Mayor of Boston states that the valuation of that city has been increased more than \$1,000,000 and there is not a city or town in this State which has not been benefited in an equal proportion. What was wild and fanciful theory then, has now become important history.

But the gentleman from Lowell (Mr. Knowles) says, "pass this law, and the capitalist will say, tax me, and I withdraw my loan." Now capitalists will act from interest, and is there any better subject of investment than real estate? If they purchased stocks in any corporations, the assessors are informed of the fact, and assess the taxes accordingly. The government should afford no refuge from taxation. Money invested upon mortgage will be taxed but once, and no good reason can be urged against it. But I can have no sympathy with that feeling if it exist, which would avenge itself upon the innocent debtor. Nor can I believe that such a spirit is long us. But if it be, it affords no reason for rejecting this proposition. The first clause of the instructions provides that the mortgagor may give notice of the mortgage to the assessor; otherwise he will be taxed for the whole estate. Now by these instructions you place the power in the debtor's hands to disclose the name of the mortgagee or not, as he sees fit. If he choose to pay the tax, from fear or any other cause, he cannot say that the law is unjust. But the gentleman from Boston says that the mortgagor will compel the mortgagee to pay the taxes in addition to the legal interest. There is no fear of this. Our laws have provided that any consideration in addition to the legal interest is made usury. Here then is a perfect remedy, and capitalists would hardly incur so great a risk for the sake of a trifling gain.

Our farmers as well as Mortgagees cannot fail to perceive the justice of Mr. B's remarks, and of the Bill he proposed. Such a Bill if adopted in this State would go far to alleviate much of the trouble which arises in consequence of mortgaged property. It would equalize the taxes—relieve the mortgagor, and prevent the taxing of property twice. We are fully of opinion that something of the kind should be adopted. The Senate of our own State had a Bill before it a long time this winter concerning mortgaged property; but the object of it we never succeeded in ascertaining. But however just and righteous such a measure would be in this or any other State it was voted down in Massachusetts. It was rejected by a small majority, which shows that there is strong feeling in its favor, and gives reason to believe that such a measure will sooner or later receive the sanction of Law. The vote resulted in 129 for and 142 against.

NO ACCOUNTING FOR TASTE.

A correspondent of the Bangor Courier, signing himself "Belshazzar," speaks thus of the late Legislature:—

"Since the birth of locofocoism, which event happened about the year 1830 of the Christian era, perhaps no Legislature has, by its acts done so much to entitle itself to such profound contempt from their constituents—as has entailed upon itself so much of unadulterated disgrace—in short, prostituted the honor and responsibility of the State, to such an extent, as the present. As the 'white weed' in the soil exterminates all that is desirable to the farmer, vitiating every thing with which it comes in contact and producing only that which is base, so is radical locofocoism."

This "Belshazzar" is probably a cousin german to that one spoken of in the Old Testament; and has without doubt, received lessons of government from that noble Prince. This "Belshazzar" has likewise about the same abhorrence of Locofocoism in this State that Belshazzar of old had to the authority and government of Cyrus, yet the authority of Cyrus was perfect, his government wise, judicious and prosperous. When Belshazzar of old saw the hand writing on the wall, which interpreted, meant that his kingdom should be taken from him, he divided and given to others, it is said that "his knees smote together." He did not heed the warning, however, but continued on in revelry till the troops of the enemy were in possession of his kingdom. The Lord favored the movements of Cyrus, but destroyed the movements and hopes of Belshazzar. This modern "Belshazzar," who is a good representative of the Clay Wing Party has seen, or might have seen, the hand writing on the wall, which being interpreted, means that there is neither Jersey honor or patriotism in the Federal party, and their leaders will be scattered, their leaders destroyed, and their policy will be brought to naught. They do not now see the hand writing, but they have the hand writing on the wall, which their efforts have always resulted in disgrace—their leaders will be scattered, and their policy will be brought to naught. In the mean time the hand writing on the wall will be interpreted, and the people will see the result of their folly.

Jonathan C. Codington, late Post Master at N. Y., has been nominated by the Democrats as a candidate for Mayor of that city.

Gen. Appleton, of Portland, has been nominated by the Temperance party as a candidate for Mayor of that city.

Congressional Elections in the 5th and 7th Districts. At the elections in these Districts a week ago yesterday, it being the fourth trial, it was supposed that Mr. Cary was chosen in the 7th, but that there is no choice in the 5th. In 30 towns heard from Mr. Cary had a gain of 300 votes, giving him a majority over all others. Mr. White, in the fifth District composed of Somerset and Waldo, fails of an election on account of persistent divisions in our own ranks. We hear from all quarters that Mr. White is an intelligent farmer and a good man, consequently his defeat is the more to be lamented.

Mr. Webster is strongly opposed to the annexation of Texas to the United States.

TEMPERANCE CONVENTION.

Delegates from many of the Washingtonian Societies in the County of Oxford, with others friendly to the cause of Temperance, and members of the several Societies, met in Convention at the Congregational Meetinghouse in Summer on Wednesday the sixth day of March inst. and choose Col. Aaron Parsons, of Buckfield, Chairman, and Thomas Chase, of Buckfield, Sec'y.

A. D. White, James Hersey 3d, and Zury Robinson were chosen a committee to receive the credentials of members present from the several Societies, who reported as follows:—

From the Washingtonian Society of Turner, Seth Sampson, Isaac Gross, Washington Long, Timothy Ludden.

North Turner, Josiah Keen, John A. Kimball, David House, Cornelius F. Richardson.

Buckfield, Addison G. Cole, A. D. White, W. B. Bennett, Alexander Robinson.

East Buckfield, David B. Reckord, James Hussey Jr. Edmund Irish.

East Hartford, Lemuel Cole, Jr. Geo. W. Starbird, Geo. A. Bryant, John S. Robinson.

Sumner, Joseph Robinson, Wm. Allen.

Sumner, west branch, Nath'l O. Ryerson, Samuel Coburn, Nahum Barnes.

Sumner, east branch, Levi Bryant, Sharon Robinson, Samuel Palmer.

Sumner, north branch, Lot Hall.

North Paris, Apolos Osgood.

Prayer by Rev. S. Sewall.

Voted, To organize a County Washingtonian Society. Chose T. Ludden, James Hersey, 3d, and Edmund Irish, Jr. a committee to nominate officers and draft a Constitution for such Society, who reported the following:—

This Society shall be called the Oxford County Washingtonian Society, and have for its officers a President, two Vice Presidents, a Recording and a Corresponding Secretary, a prudential Committee of the foregoing officers, a Committee of Arrangements of one from each town having members of this Society, and the one belonging to the town in which any meeting of this Society shall be held, shall be Chairman for that occasion. The officers shall be nominated by a Committee of the Society subject to a vote of the same. There shall be an annual meeting for the choice of officers on the first Wednesday of September, and at such other times as the Society shall direct, at which time the subject of Washingtonian Temperance alone shall be discussed.

All persons friendly to the above principles may become members of this Society, to remain such on the condition of entire abstinence from all intoxicating liquors.

The Committee reported a list of officers, viz: Apolos Osgood, President. Seth Sampson, Vice President. Lot Hall, Vice President. Thomas Chase, Recording Secretary. Timothy Ludden, Corresponding Sec'y.

John Conant, John A. Kimball, Alpheus Lane, R. K. Goodenow, A. D. White, Committee of Arrangements; all of whom were chosen.

The Committee of Arrangement through their Chairman now reported, that "Father Hayes" being present would address the Society, which was listened to with great interest, after which the same Committee reported the following Resolutions, which, after an animated and interesting discussion, were adopted.

Resolved, That the time has fully come, when the friends of Temperance should avail themselves of the law, as a dernier resort, to put an end to the unhallowed traffic in ardent spirits.

Resolved, That we have little confidence in those temperance men, who, while they applaud, and bid us Godspeed, refuse to join our ranks, or deny themselves the social glass.

Resolved, That energetic and persevering effort in the friends of Temperance, is the only right course to ensure ultimate success—a universal triumph.

Resolved, That professors of religion, in this enlightened day, who stand aloof from the temperance cause, are doing greater injury than the drunkard, and incurring great guilt.

By Samuel F. Brown, Esq. Resolved, That one of the most important means of promoting temperance and securing it as a principal of human action, is the consistent example of its professors.

By Timothy Ludden, Esq. Resolved, That our Mothers, Wives, Sisters, and Daughters, possess an unbounded influence Voted to adjourn to the Baptist Meeting-house in this town to-morrow at ten o'clock.

March 7. Met according to adjournment. Prayer by Rev. Allen Barrows.

The Chairman of the Committee of Arrangements further reported, bespeaking attention to an address from our venerable "Father Hayes," after which a report from the several Washingtonian Societies here represented, through their delegates, all which was listened to with great interest and profound attention.

Voted, That the Secretary cause the proceedings of this Society to be made public through the press.

Voted, That this meeting be adjourned to meet again at Buckfield Village at nine o'clock A. M. on the first Wednesday of September next.

THOMAS CHASE, Secretary.

Sumner, March 7, 1844. The Christian Mirror, Zion's Advocate, and Washingtonian Journal, are requested to copy.

whole week